

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 08419 071827Z

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ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 ORM-02 OMB-01 AID-05

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6694

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL TABRIZ

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 8419

KUWAIT POUCH BAGHDAD FOR INFO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, PINS, IR, IZ

SUBJECT: KURDISH REFUGEES

REF: STATE 263663

1. DCM ABRAMS ACCOMPANIED AND INTRODUCED RECENTLY ARRIVED CHIEF OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS SECTION OF MISSION, WHO PRESENTED POINTS MADE REFTEL TO DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER MACE AND TWO AIDES NOVEMBER 7.

2. WHILE NOT DENYING THAT GOODYEAR HAS YET TO VISIT REFUGEE CONCENTRATION AREAS TO ESTABLISH THAT REPATRIATIONS PURELY VOLUNTARY, UNHCR REPS MAINTAINED THAT KURDISH LEADERS THEMSELVES HAD ACTIVELY SUPPORTED REPATRIATION OF BULK OF REFUGEE GROUPS IN RECENT EXCHANGES WITH GOODYEAR. (INITIAL REACTION OF UNHCR REPS WAS TO INQUIRE WHETHER THIS RECENT USG INQUIRY, OR RE-RAISING OF OLD QUESTION WHICH PRESUMABLY HAD BEEN SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED EARLIER.) THEY ASSERTED THAT KURDISH POPULATION RETAIN IDENTITY AS SINGLE GROUP IN IRAQ, RATHER THAN BEING
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 08419 071827Z

DISPERSED ABOUT IRANIAN TERRITORY AS THEY JUDGED

WOULD BE LIKELY SHOULD KURDS ELECT TO REMAIN.
UNSPOKEN INFERENCE WAS THAT IN VIEW OF THIS
PREFERENCE ON PART OF KURDISH LEADERS, GOODYEAR'S
VISIT TO REFUGEE CONCENTRATION AREAS NOT NECESSARY
FOR PURPOSES VERIFICATION. HOWEVER, WHEN POINT
REPEATED THAT USG CONCERN WAS THAT GOODYEAR ASSURE
HIMSELF OF VOLUNTARY ASPECT OF REPATRIATION,
UNHCR REPS STATED THEY WOULD CONVEY MESSAGE.

3. TO POINT OF USG PUZZLEMENT OVER POSSIBILITY
GOODYEAR CONCENTRATING ON MATTER OF PROCESSING
KURDS FOR IMMIGRATION TO THIRD COUNTRIES, TO
DETRIMENT OF PROTECTION FUNCTION, UNHCR REPS
AGAIN DID NOT TAKE ISSUE, BUT SAID THEY WOULD
PASS THIS USG CONCERN PROMPTLY TO GOODYEAR.

4. ON RELATED SUBJECT, DEPUTY HCR ADDRESSED
LETTER NOV. 5 TO HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS OFFICE
URGING THAT ARRANGEMENTS BE MADE FOR INTERVIEWS,
REGISTRATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURES TO BE
CONDUCTED IN TEHRAN FOR PROSPECTIVE KURDISH
EMIGRANTS TO UNITED STATES. IN DISCUSSING THIS
MATTER, UNHCR REPS UNDERScoreD DIFFICULTIES
PRESENTED IN TRANSPORTING LARGE NUMBER OF REFUGEES
TO A THIRD COUNTRY WHERE INS PROCESSING FACILITIES
ESTABLISHED. THEY ALSO RAISED POSSIBLE PROBLEM
PRESENTED BY RESETTLEMENT IN LAST COUNTRY OF
PROCESSING, BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THIS LARGELY OVERCOME
BY INDICATED IRANIAN ACCEPTANCE TO RECEIVE ANY
RETURNING KURDS, AS REQUIRED. WHILE CLINGING TO
MAIN POINT OF FAR GREATER DESIRABILITY OF FULLY
PROCESSING KURDISH REFUGEES IN TEHRAN, UNHCR
REP SUGGESTED THAT, IF THIS WERE NOT POSSIBLE DUE
TO US STATUTORY LIMITATIONS, CONSIDERATION MIGHT
BE GIVEN TO COMPLETING AS MUCH PROCESSING AS
POSSIBLE IN IRAN, WITH ONLY FINAL APPROVAL
REMAINING TO BE DONE AT INTERMEDIATE POINT
EN ROUTE UNITED STATES. UNHCR REP ALSO MENTIONED
IN PASSING THAT CANADIANS HAD ALREADY ESTABLISHED
IMMIGRATION OFFICER IN TEHRAN FROM BEIRUT FOR
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PAGE 03 GENEVA 08419 071827Z

THIS PURPOSE. WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING DEPARTMENT'S
VIEWS THIS SUBJECT.DALE

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